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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/024,945

12/19/2001

William D. Denison

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09/21/2004

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EXAMINER

ZIMMERMAN, BRIAN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2635

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/024,945

Applicant(s)

DENISON ET AL.

Examiner

Brian A Zimmerman

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 40-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 63, 71 and 72 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 40-62, 64-70, 73, 74 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2635

EXAMINER'S RESPONSE

Status of Application

In response to the applicant's amendment received on 7/23/04. The examiner has considered the new presentation of claims and applicant arguments in view of the disclosure and the present state of the prior art. And it is the examiner's position that claims 40-62,64-70,73,74 are unpatentable for the reasons set forth in this office action:

Election/Restrictions

Pending claim 63 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claim 63 is directed to a low battery detection circuit, which has not been previously considered. The claimed invention being considered is communication and programming of an electronic lock system. It is noted that the status identifier for claim 63 is "withdrawn". Therefore, this claim is still pending.

Newly presented claims 71 and 72 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claims 71 and 72 are directed to specifics of a shielding system for the controllers, which has not been previously considered. The claimed invention being considered is communication and programming of an electronic lock system.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original

Art Unit: 2635

presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 63,71 and 72 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Double Patenting

The Terminal Disclaimer filed 7/23/04 disclaiming US Patents 6359547 and 5617082, has been received and placed in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 56 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Support could not be found for having the two power levels be non-zero.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2635

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

1. Claims 40-45,48-55,57-61,64-70,73,74 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Henderson (5602536).

Henderson shows an access control device having a microprocessor based control circuit 28 and non-volatile memory 44. Henderson also shows the control device to include a communication port (see figure 24) for writing data to the memory of the access device. One of the plurality of keys can send a read signal through the port to trigger the access device to send the access code stored in memory and receive the access code from the access device through the port. The one of a plurality of keys can also send an access code through the port to program the access device. The one of a plurality of keys includes a keypad and a clear key, see col. 15 line 55+. The device of Henderson also includes a low battery detector see col. 31 lines 55+. See col. 4 lines 1-5, col. 5 lines 60+, col. 7 lines 5+, col. 13 lines 25+, col. 14 lines 55+. Henderson also provides a sleep

Art Unit: 2635

mode for the access device such that upon receipt of a signal via the communication port, the access device wakes up, see col. 24 line 5+.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 46,47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson as applied to claim 43 above, and further in view of McNair.

In an analogous art, McNair teaches disabling for a period of time if the device receives an number of consecutive invalid inputs. This improves security in that the ability to break into the codes is reduced. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used the McNair method of disabling in the Henderson access system in order to improve security.

3. Claims 56 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson as applied to claim 54 above, and further in view of Imran (5090222).

In an analogous art, Imran shows a lock solenoid with the power levels claimed for opening and maintaining the lock in an open position for reduced power consumption levels. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used the lock powering

Art Unit: 2635

method of Imran in order to reduce power consumption in the Henderson access control system.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/23/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Henderson does not disclose the memory log containing an access code as claimed. Henderson's log contains the identification codes of those who have successfully and unsuccessfully attempted to access the lock. These identification codes are interpreted as access codes, since correct comparison of them at access attempt is required.

The applicant argues that Henderson does not use a signal from a communication port to trigger transmission of data. Henderson additionally provides a sleep mode for the access device such that upon receipt of a signal via the communication port, the access device wakes up, see col. 24 line 5+ which is one of the triggers for transmitting data. Note that the device cannot transmit data while it is in the sleep mode.

The applicant argues that Henderson does not trigger the transition from a sleep mode by pressing any of at least two keys on the device. This claim limitation is not as narrow as the applicant intends. Henderson's device includes a plurality of keys (at least two). Pressing a designated key triggers the transition as claimed. Therefore pressing the designated key, which is one of the at least two keys on the device triggers the transition as claimed. This limitation does not

Art Unit: 2635

specify that each key has the ability to transition the device from a sleep mode, when pressed.

The applicant argues that Henderson does not write or store a permanent access code. Henderson (col. 18 lines 9+) shows the access device storing lockbox access codes as claimed. It appears that the applicant is pointing to the term permanent to discern from the rejection, however there is no definition of the term permanent that would eliminate the access codes of Henderson from being permanent access codes as the examiner maintains. Furthermore, claim 64 as set forth in the amendment 1/22/04 states that the permanent code is disabled. This raises into question the applicant's interpretation of the term permanent.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian A Zimmerman whose telephone number is 571-272-3059. The examiner can normally be reached on Off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Horabik can be reached on 571-272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2635

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BAZ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian A Zimmerman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2635

BAZ